(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how many workers are affected by the lockout?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) It is reported that the management closed their factory from 28th February 1955.

" (b) It is reported that the trees were not yielding.

" (c) About 25."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether before declaring the lockout the management gave notice to the workers according to the Act? If not, what measures Government are going to take? May I also know what conciliation proceedings the Government have taken in this matter?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Labour Officer has been taking the necessary steps to get to the 25 workers whatever is due to them."

Extent of assessed waste lands

* 1793 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the extent of assessed waste land in the State?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" 227,099·68 acres."

Dramas to popularize Five-Year Plan

* 1794 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether any amount has been allotted by the Centre for the performance of dramas to popularize the Five-Year Plan in the State;

(b) if so, the number of dramas to be enacted;

(c) the places where the dramas are to be enacted; and

(d) the amount to be spent for this purpose in 1955–56?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) No specific allotment has been made to this State by the Centre for the performance of dramas to popularize the Five-Year Plan in this State—

The Centre has, however, got a scheme for utilizing the services of experienced and popular artistes, paying them an all inclusive honoraria, for the enactment of approved plays in rural areas.

" (b) to (d) Do not arise."

2nd April 1955]

Sri N. K. PALANISAMY :—" கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் approved plays என்று சொன்னார். Approved plays என்றால் என்ன என்பதை விளக்குவாரா ? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The plays are approved by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that Malayalam actors have been engaged for this purpose and they have already entered into contracts with the Government of India to enact these dramas under the Second Five-Year Plan? If so, why not similar opportunity be given to Tamil actors to enact the same kind of dramas to popularize them in Tamil Nad? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not know what the hon. member means. In the scheme of the Government of India it has been recently stated that under the Song Drama Unit, a provision for plays produced through State Government in the form of a subsidy of not less than Rs. 1,500 would be made available to the State Governments for arranging performances in their regions. The details of the scheme have not been sent to us and we are awaiting the details."

(* 1795 *Q.*—Appears after question No. 1802.)

Government Hydrogenation Factory, Kozhikode

* 1796 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) why the Government have decided to sell the Hydrogenation Factory erected at Kozhikode ; and

(*b*) the exact amount invested by the Government on this factory?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) As a number of private units of the hydrogenation industry are working and this industry is established, there is no need for the State Government competing with the private sector in such a consumer-goods industry. The factory is therefore proposed to be sold or leased.

" (*b*) An expenditure of Rs. 18,39,223 has been incurred on the factory up to 30th November 1954."

Distinction between Hindu and Christian Harijans

* 1797 *Q.*—Dr. K. B. MENON : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from the Tamilnad Harijan Catholic Christians Association requesting the Government to remove the distinction between the Hindu Harijans and Christians of Harijan origin; and